

Delta Protection Advisory Committee (DPAC) Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Walnut Grove Library

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by DPC Assistant Director Catherine Caldwell.

Meeting attendees:

- Melinda Terry – *North Delta Water Agency (Member)*
- Leo Winternitz – *The Nature Conservancy (Member)*
- Greg Zlotnick – *State and Federal Water Contractors (Alternate)*
- Vin Rover – *Private Island Homes*
- Michael Machado – *DPC staff*
- Catherine Caldwell – *DPC staff*
- Marc Ceccarelli – *DPC staff*
- Alex Westhoff – *DPC staff*

Discussion of the Delta Reform Act—DPC's Regulatory Role

DPC Executive Director Michael Machado reviewed the role of the DPAC, created in the 2009 Delta Reform act, and its relation to the DPC. The stakeholders committee functions as an advisory committee for consideration by the Commission. Mr. Machado updated the DPAC on the DPC's role in relation to the Delta Stewardship Council, the completion and incorporation of the Economic Sustainability Plan into the Delta Plan, as well as with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.

Mr. Machado also reviewed the DPC's regulatory role with land use in the Primary Zone of the Delta. The Delta Reform Act required analysis of expansion or change of the Primary Zone in 2010. In November 2012, the DPC approved a set of maps that clearly identified the boundaries between the urban and non-urban land uses within the Primary Zones. Urban land uses within the unincorporated communities will be 'outside' the Primary Zone and therefore not subject to consistency with the DPC's Land Use Resource Management Plan.

Additionally, Mr. Machado updated the committee on efforts arising from the Delta Plan that the DPC is pursuing in 2013. One is a feasibility study for a regional levee assessment district, which could expand the beneficiary payments to include those not currently subject to assessment. Another is a regional emergency response program for the Delta, in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources and CalEMA (California Emergency Management Agency).

Activities of the Delta Protection Commission

DPC Environmental Planners, Marc Ceccarelli and Alex Westhoff, gave updates to the committee on the activities the DPC has participated in over the last year. These activities included Public Outreach, Working Landscapes grant pilot projects, Delta Trail efforts, and the National Heritage Area feasibility study.

Committee members discussed long-term monitoring and maintenance associated with restoration projects, and possible signage restrictions on levees, and integration of trail planning efforts with ongoing restoration projects.

Discussion and Review of the DPAC Charter

Attendees discussed the role and charter of the DPAC, and the value of continuing to meet. Quorums have not been achieved at either meeting, and a Chair has not been elected. The charter is subject to review and continuation by the DPC every two years. Members' terms are three years; current members started terms in 2011.

Attendees expressed interest in continuation of the DPAC. Suggestions included having the DPAC serve as the advisory committee for all DPC processes such as the NHA Management Plan, Delta Trails, farmland mitigation, Delta Wetlands updates, Delta Conservancy and DWR collaborations, as well as serving as a less formal forum for discussion of Delta issues. Attendees discussed possible formal designation of alternates; informational discussions versus action item recommendations; achieving broad/fair representation of Delta interests; establishment of regular meeting dates; and ensuring the committee serves as a valuable role to the Commission.

Member Leo Winternitz requested that the DPAC review existing membership, recruit additional /stronger participation, and continue to meet on a trial basis for one year. Member Melinda Terry committed to pursuing increased member participation. DPC staff will make a report at the January 2013 DPC meeting.

Other Topics Not on the Agenda

Melinda Terry asked the DPC to review DWR's Delta Regional Report and compare consistency with the Economic Sustainability Plan. She suggested that the ESP could be a valuable resource for assessing the current state of Delta levees.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.